Raw sugar import policy

2507. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to industry experts the current raw sugar import policy is unviable;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government would like to take to tackle such issues to benefit the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proposal to double the quantum of sugar levy

2508. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to double the quantum of sugar levy from the present level of 2.5 mt;

(b) if so, whether the industry has agreed to entertain such a move on the condition that Government would agree in return to remove restrictions on quantum of sugar that industry can release in market each month; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The levy obligation on sugar factories is imposed in terms of percentage on production. The Central Government has-increased the levy obligation on sugar factories from 10% to 20% of production for 2009-10 sugar season.

(b) and (c) During consultations with sugar industry, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories (NFCSF), the apex organizations of private and cooperative sugar factories, respectively, requested to remove restrictions on sale of non-levy sugar which the Government has imposed in terms of regulated release mechanism policy. The Government has not acceded to the request of the industry.

Black marketing of essential commodities

2509. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids carried out from 2008 onwards to check black-marketing of essential commodities, State/Union Territory-wise; and